

## Charming Messaline Afternoon Gown



An afternoon gown of messaline silk, pictured here, is one of many that the amateur seamstress may undertake with assurance that success is easy. The summer afternoon dress is about the most satisfying of all the clothes wherewithal we are clothed and any number of them have been designed (of the lovely fabrics made for wear in the good old summer time) that are easy to make.

In the dress pictured the skirt is straight and short and full. It has a high waist line with a smocked or shirred panel at the front and single box plaits disposing of the fullness at the sides and back. Two knife-plaited ruffles extend about the skirt near the bottom and at the hip line, but they terminate at the front panel on each side.

A loose, plain blouse of chiffon in the same color as the dress with Dutch neck has a narrow knife plaiting of the messaline fastened across the front. A short jacket of the messaline is decorated with small buttons and three and the odd sleeves with ruffled cuffs, are forceful little items in the very good style of this gown. The sleeves are full and confined near

the shoulder with a band of narrow knife plaiting.

A frill of lace about the neck and a long tie of narrow ribbon with border of white complements the dress.

Summer afternoon gowns of voile or crepe, and fine lingerie gowns are very smart, worn with bright colored coats of taffeta or crepe or a messaline silk lined with thin satin. The surplice waist appears in many variations in afternoon gowns. A combination of the eon jacket and surplice waist effect is novel; the surplice ending in each ends at the back. A blouse and girdle cut in one is one of the happiest suggestions for the afternoon gown. To pick out the unusual and at the same time the simple effects for afternoon dresses is to be sure of success in style.

The three-tiered skirt in which the bounces are set together is another good idea for the afternoon dress. It is worn with a soft chiffon blouse and made high waisted or given that effect by a very wide girdle. Made of one of the thin materials and worn with a coat of taffeta this is a costume both economical and smart.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

## Philosophy of Life.

"Where a man can live he can also live well, but he may not have to live in a palace."—Marcus Aurelius.

## Excuse for Comic Songs.

Aesculapius is reported to have written comic songs to promote digestion in his patients.

## The Voice of the Farmer

To the Editor of The Observer:

Farmers' Bulletin No. 197, by Prof. W. H. Neal, of the office of experiment stations, treats of barnyard manure as plant food. Another professor, whose name I cannot at present recall, advised in one of our leading agricultural journals that cauliflower could not be successfully grown without a liberal supply of night soil had been applied. Stop! Think of it! When you see a large, fine head of cauliflower, the hydrangeas of the cabbage family, grown in soil infected with such death-dealing germs that cause typhoid, small pox, measles, consumption and, in fact, every ill that the human family is heir to, being recommended by a professor.

In the bulletin referred to above, bearing date of 1904, appears the statement that there are within the territory of the United States 18,500,000 horses of all kinds, 61,000,000 head of cattle, 47,000,000 hogs and 31,000,000 sheep. The author of the bulletin has figured out that, supposing it to be feasible to stable all these animals, the production of stable manure would have a market value of \$2,352,700,000. He figures that this estimate is based on the usual value of the chief ingredients of artificial fertilizer, phosphoric acid, potash and nitrogen compounds.

The writer, in his humble capacity, an every day, common farmer, begs to state in reply that if stable manure to the value of \$2,352,700,000 were distributed throughout the plains of America to serve as plant food, the whole of the population of the plains would soon be extinct. Fortunately for the health of the people it is not feasible to stable all these 179,000,000 of animals, and the farmer can only use a small part of this poison as plant food. I beg to propose this question to the learned professor: Where is the sodium to come from, which must be contained in the food of animals and men in order to make the formation of fluid blood—albumen possible? Phosphoric acid and nitrogen compounds do not answer for this purpose.

What causes the numerous cattle diseases and how can a cow give whole some milk when fed on substances containing insufficient quantities of sodium? The sodium milk is the cause of most all infantile diseases, and of the poisoning of many adults, and the cow that is fed on the products derived from stable manure is the most common cause of death of children and adults from measles, diphtheria and many other diseases. The fertilizer chemists declare that plants do very well on a diet of stable manure and artificial fertilizers, that phosphoric acid, potash and nitrogen compounds make their growth luxuriant, but they pay no attention whatever to the plant diseases, and fail to observe the parasites which suck the lifeblood of the growing crops. Manure, whose blood must be rich in minerals cannot enter without a sufficient supply of sodium, because without it fluid blood—albumen—cannot be formed. Not a single one of our fertilizer experts seems, as yet, to have taken this fact into consideration. There are chemical fertilizer works which claim to manufacture in accordance with the methods of Prof. Liebig. But has not that great German chemist taught and clearly stated that the minerals, the alkaline salts, determine the fertility of the soil? Under the decomposing influence of sun

light, electricity, they furnish plants with a great amount of carbon and nitrogen, therefore it is not necessary to use large quantities of stable manure.

It is remarkable that it never occurred to the great chemist, Liebig, to advise farmers to grind granite, porphyry, basalt, limestone, etc., and mix it with phosphoric compounds and other minerals and use it on the fields as a stone meal fertilizer, for the purpose of providing the soil with a fresh supply of the most necessary minerals, potassium, lime, sodium, magnesium, manganese, iron, fluorine, sulphur, phosphorus, etc.

A fellow farmer said to me: "Young man, you have wheels in your head, and are continually studying up something no one else ever thought about." The impoverished condition of our soil is evidence that some one should start the wheels to rolling. We cannot wait a few thousand years, until the frosts of winter and the sunshine of summer, until snow and rain shall have powdered the rocks and made it into soil in which to grow fine, healthy plants. When our chemists and manufacturers recognize this fact and erect crushers and mills to powder the rocks and lava and thus prepare the best fertilizer in the world, on which to grow the best food for animals and men, America will, indeed, become the most wonderful country in the world.

The minerals contained in the milk of cattle grazing on mountain pasture make it a nutritious food for man, for the hard minerals, being combined with the soft materials, good milk must be the result.

Millions of children and adults suffer and die because science fails to understand the nature of the connecting link between body and mind, the hard and the soft, or in other words the polarities. Imagination, the creator of mental progress and civilization, forms the connecting link between body and mind, and without it, both physical and mental functions would be impossible. Imagination finds expression in a sentiment of faith or belief, while possessing a natural tendency towards the recognition of the vital laws governing life. Whenever this tendency is absent the poison of inhumanity, savagery and anarchy make their appearance. It is very easy to prove that many modern political and social phenomena point to wards an increase of animalism in mankind, due to an erroneous conception of the necessary foundation of physical and mental creative force.

It is doubtless true that physical, mental and social distress have become fearfully common, owing to the ignorance of modern sciences on the subject of body (nature) and mind—the conscious and the unconscious, and of the true status and importance of love and sentiment as the basis of mental phenomena. Imagination is a creative combining force in the human brain as well as in the brain of the body politic. Whosoever neglects to give this combining force due consideration will never be able to gain a thorough knowledge of the laws governing our physical system, and the same is true of those persons who fail to consider the importance of pure health-giving milk.

ROBT. I. YOUNG

## To Remove Brown Stains.

From earthenware dishes and plates caused by putting them in the oven, soak in strong borax and hot water.

## LIQUID FIRE AS USED IN THE WAR



This photograph, taken recently somewhere in France, shows how the French have taken a lesson from the Germans and have adopted the frightful liquid fire as a weapon of defense.

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